

CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTS BOARD

PUBLIC PROTECTION THROUGH EXAMINATION, LICENSURE AND REGULATION



Table of Equivalents

April 2006

The enclosed information is a summary of Section 117 of the California Architects Board's (Board) regulations and is provided to help candidates understand the evaluation of their eligibility for examination and licensure. Candidates are required to have a total of five years of Board-approved credit to be eligible for the Architect Registration Examination, eight years for the California Supplemental Examination and licensure.

The alphanumeric symbols used for the Table References identify the applicable regulatory subsections of Section 117. After an application has been received, Board staff performs an evaluation of the documents submitted by the candidate. The Evaluation of Record identifies the subsection and the amount of credit allowed for each educational and work experience document submitted and the total amount of credit accrued by the candidate. A copy of the Evaluation of Record is sent to the candidate after staff completes the evaluation.

Education Equivalents

General Information Regarding Education Equivalents

Credit may be granted for units obtained without a degree under Table References (a)(1) through (5) or (a)(14)(A). However, no credit is granted for units obtained without a degree under (a)(6) or (7), unless those units were transferred to and accepted by a school degree program under (a)(1) through (5).

..... *Reference (b)(4)*

Units obtained without a degree under Table References (a)(1) through (5) or (a)(14)(A) may be granted credit of no more than six months less than the maximum credit allowed for that degree program. Thirty (30) semester units or 45 quarter units is considered one academic year. Fractions greater than one-half of an academic year may be granted one-half year of credit; however, smaller fractions are not granted credit. *Reference (b)(5)*

If a candidate possesses a degree and possesses units from more than one college or university, the degree is evaluated prior to the additional academic units. *Reference (b)(8)*

Credit is not granted for multiple degrees unless a candidate possesses a professional degree in architecture and a post professional degree in architecture or with an emphasis on architecture as specified in (a)(14)(A). Otherwise, the degree that may be granted the most credit as determined by the applicable Table Reference subsection (a) takes priority. *Reference (b)(9)*

Listed below are various types of education that may be granted education equivalents including the applicable Table References and the maximum amount of credit that may be granted per category.

Table Reference	Description	Maximum Credit Allowed
(a)(1)	<p>A professional degree in architecture where the degree program has been accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB), or units toward such a degree.</p> <p><i>A “professional degree program” is defined as one of the following: 1) Bachelor of Architecture, five-year program; 2) Bachelor of Architecture for individuals with a prior degree; 3) Master of Architecture, four-year undergraduate program in architecture plus a two-year graduate program in architecture; 4) Master of Architecture, four-year undergraduate program in another discipline plus a three-year graduate program in architecture. <i>Reference (b)(2)</i></i></p> <p><i>Credit may be granted for a professional degree in architecture, or units toward such a degree, from an NAAB or CACB-accredited program if such program is or was accredited by NAAB or CACB either at the time of graduation or within two years after the date of graduation or termination of enrollment. <i>Reference (b)(3)</i></i></p>	5 years
(a)(2)	<p>A professional degree in architecture where the degree program has not been accredited by NAAB or CACB and the program consists of at least a five-year curriculum, or units toward such a degree.</p>	4 years

A degree or units from a foreign college or university is granted credit according to the applicable Table Reference (a)(1) through (7). A transcript(s) certified by the college or university must be evaluated by NAAB or an educational evaluation service approved by the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services, Inc. (NACES) equating the

degree to a comparable U.S. degree. The candidate is responsible for any cost of evaluation. Professional degrees or units accredited by CACB are not required to be evaluated by NAAB or NACES. *Reference (b)(11) and (b)(12)*

Table Reference	Description	Maximum Credit Allowed
(a)(3)	A four-year degree in architecture Baccalaureus Atrium (BA), Atrium Baccalaureus (AB), Bachelor of Science (BS), or units toward such a degree.	3-1/2 years
(a)(4)	A degree from a school/college which has an NAAB-accredited or CACB-accredited professional degree program in architecture, where the degree could be accepted for entry into a two-year NAAB or CACB-accredited Master of Architecture program, or units toward such a degree.	3-1/2 years
(a)(5)	A degree which consists of at least a four-year curriculum in a field related to architecture, or units toward such a degree. <i>Degrees in a field related to architecture are defined as the following: Architectural Design; Architectural Engineering; Architectural Studies; Architectural Technology; Building Science; City and Regional Planning; Civil, Mechanical, Structural, or Electrical Engineering; Construction Engineering; Construction Management; Environmental Design; Interior Architecture; Landscape Architecture; and Urban and Regional Design. Reference (b)(6)</i>	2 years
(a)(6)	Any other college or university degree which consists of at least a four-year curriculum.	1 year
(a)(7)(A)	Any other city/community college degree which consists of at least a two-year curriculum.	6 months
(a)(7)(B)	Any other city/community college degree or technical school certificate in a field related to architecture.	1 year

Work Experience Equivalents

General Information Regarding Work Experience Equivalents

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age or a high school graduate before they may be eligible to receive credit for work experience. *Reference (c)(1)*

CAB grants credit to candidates only when the supervising licensed professional is licensed in the United States jurisdiction, Canadian province or qualifying foreign country where the work experience is obtained or where the project is located. Work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed professional as defined in subsections (a)(8), (a)(12)(A), and (a)(13) that is obtained under the authority of or on the property of the United States Federal Government is exempt from this requirement. *Reference (c)(2)*

Work experience is considered on the basis of a calendar month of 40-hour work weeks. Credit may be granted for overtime.

..... *Reference (c)(3)*

Every candidate must earn at least one year of training credit for experience as or under the direct supervision of an architect licensed in a United States jurisdiction or at least two years of training credit for experience as or under the direct supervision of an architect registered in a Canadian province.

..... *Reference (c)(4)*

Practice credit for self-employment may be accumulated only after initial registration or licensure by a licensing authority of a political jurisdiction.

..... *Reference (d)(1)*

A candidate verifying his or her experience as a licensed professional or certified California building official must submit an Employment Verification Form on his or her own behalf; proof of licensure, registration, or certification; and a project list including the names and addresses of clients, types of projects, construction costs, project start dates, completion dates, and all services provided by the candidate. *Reference (d)(2)*

CAB does not grant credit for independent, non-licensed practice or experience, regardless of claimed coordination or liaison with licensed professionals. *Reference (e)(1)*

Listed below are various types of work experience that may be granted work experience equivalents including the applicable Table References and the maximum amount of credit that may be granted per category.

Table Reference	Description	Maximum Credit Allowed
(a)(8)	Work experience under the direct supervision of an architect(s) licensed in a United States jurisdiction is granted 100% credit.	8 years
(a)(9)	Certification by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) is granted eight years of credit upon receipt in the Board office of the candidate's current and valid NCARB blue cover file transmitted by NCARB.	8 years
(a)(10)	<p>While a candidate is enrolled in a college or university, credit is granted:</p> <p>(A) 100% for work experience obtained under the direct supervision of an architect(s) licensed in a United States jurisdiction.</p> <p>(B) 50% for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a registered civil or structural engineer and/or a licensed landscape architect licensed in a United States jurisdiction.</p> <p>(C) 50% for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a California licensed general building contractor.</p> <p>(D) 50% for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a California certified building official.</p> <p>(E) 50% for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a foreign licensed architect licensed in the qualifying foreign country where the experience occurred.</p> <p><i>Experience obtained as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a licensed professional as defined in Table References (a)(8), (a)(12), and (a)(15)(A) or (B) while a candidate is enrolled in a college or university is granted a maximum of one year credit as defined in (a)(10)(A) through (E). A candidate who obtains work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed professional as defined in (a)(8), (a)(12), and (a)(15)(A) or (B) while enrolled in a college or university shall have either his or her education and/or experience evaluated according to the method which provides the candidate the most credit. A candidate enrolled in a degree program where units earned are based on work experience courses (i.e., internship or co-op programs) is not granted more credit than the maximum allowed for the applicable degree earned under (a)(1) through (7).</i></p> <p>..... Reference (b)(7)</p> <p><i>A California certified building official is defined by Section 18949.27 of the Health and Safety Code as an individual who is certified in accordance with or otherwise exempt from Chapter 7, Part 2.5 of Division 13. Reference (c)(7)</i></p>	<p>1 year</p> <p>1 year</p> <p>1 year</p> <p>1 year</p> <p>1 year</p>
(a)(11)	<p>Completion of the Intern Development Program (IDP) of NCARB or the Intern Architect Program (IAP) of Canada shall be granted a minimum of three years of credit upon receipt in the Board's office of the candidate's current and valid NCARB IDP record transmitted by NCARB or documentation transmitted by a Canadian provincial architectural association, respectively.</p> <p><i>The entry point for IDP shall be as defined in NCARB's IDP Guidelines or for those candidates without an NAAB-accredited degree after three years of education equivalents. Reference (c)(8)</i></p>	5 years

Table Reference	Description	Maximum Credit Allowed
(a)(12)(A)	Experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a registered civil or structural engineer, and/or a licensed landscape architect licensed in a United States jurisdiction is granted 50% credit.	2 years
(a)(12)(B)	Experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a California licensed general building contractor is granted 50% credit.	1 year
(a)(12)(C)	Experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a California certified building official is granted 50% credit. <i>Work experience under the direct supervision of a "responsible managing officer" operating under a corporate contractor license must be verified by the responsible managing officer of that corporation. Reference (c)(6)</i> <i>Training experience under Table References (a)(10)(B) through (D), (a)(12), and (a)(14) can only be accumulated after the candidate has obtained credit for at least the five years of educational equivalents as evaluated by the Board. Candidates who complete IDP or IAP are exempt from this requirement for their IDP/IAP training units. Reference (e)(2)</i>	1 year
(a)(13)	Work experience as a licensed architect practicing in another U.S. jurisdiction with a verified record of substantial architectural practice is granted 100% credit.	8 years
(a)(14)(A)	A post professional degree in architecture or with an emphasis on architecture consisting of a Master, Master of Science, or Ph.D. degree, or units toward such a degree, OR	1 year OR
(a)(14)(B)	Teaching and/or research in NAAB or CACB-accredited architectural curriculums is granted 100% credit only for those hours worked if verified by the college or university. <i>Candidates who possess a professional degree and also possess a post professional degree in architecture or with an emphasis on architecture as specified in (a)(14)(A) may be granted one additional year credit for the post professional degree. Reference (b)(10)</i> <i>Training experience under Table References (a)(10)(B) through (D), (a)(12), or (a)(14) can only be accumulated after the candidate has obtained credit for at least the five years of educational equivalents as evaluated by the Board. Candidates who complete IDP or IAP are exempt from this requirement for their IDP/IAP training units. Reference (e)(2)</i>	1 year
(a)(15)(A)	Work experience under the direct supervision of an architect licensed in the qualifying foreign country where the experience occurred is granted 50% credit.	5 years
(a)(15)(B)	Work experience as a foreign licensed architect licensed in the qualifying foreign country with a verified record of substantial architectural practice is granted 50% credit. <i>"Qualifying foreign country" means a foreign country whose standards and qualifications for issuing a license to practice architecture are equivalent to those required in this state. Reference (c)(2)</i>	5 years

Note Regarding Table References (a)(10) and (a)(12)

Any combination of credit received under Table References (a)(10)(B) and (a)(12)(A) shall not exceed the two years maximum credit granted for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a registered civil or structural engineer and/or a licensed landscape architect licensed in a United States jurisdiction. Any combination of credit received under (a)(10)(C) and (a)(12)(B) shall not exceed the one year maximum credit granted for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a California licensed general building contractor. Any combination of credit received under (a)(10)(D) and (a)(12)(C) shall not exceed the one year maximum credit granted for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a California certified building official. Any combination of credit received under subsections (a)(10)(E) and (a)(15)(A) or (B) shall not exceed the maximum credit allowed for experience as, or experience obtained under the direct supervision of, a foreign licensed architect licensed in the qualifying foreign country where the experience occurred. A candidate cannot exceed two years maximum credit in any combination under subsections (a)(10)(B) through (D) and (a)(12)(A) through (C). *Reference (c)(5)*

Questions Frequently Asked by Candidates

What are the written examination filing deadlines?

There are no filing deadlines for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). New candidates may apply when they feel they have met the eligibility requirement of a minimum of five years of qualified education and/or work experience. Applications are accepted on a year-round basis.

May I submit my application and fee for the written examination without Employment Verification Forms and transcripts?

Yes. The application and fee may be received prior to the Board receiving the Employment Verification Forms and transcripts; however, eligibility cannot be determined until the appropriate documents are received.

Do I need an accredited degree in architecture in order to be eligible for the ARE?

No. An accredited degree in architecture is not required for licensure in California at this time. It is, however, required by many other states.

May I apply for the ARE if I have not graduated yet or my degree has not yet been posted to the transcripts?

Yes, if you have enough work experience to meet the minimum five-year requirement.

May I submit a copy of my transcript with the application?

Transcripts must be certified originals sent directly by the college or university to the Board office. The Board does not grant credit for transcripts marked “Issued to Student.” Foreign transcripts may be submitted by the candidate if it is not possible for the school to send them directly to Board office. Original foreign transcripts will be returned to the candidate by certified mail, if requested. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved education evaluation service.

May I receive credit for work experience performed during the acquisition of my degree?

Please refer to Table of Equivalents subsection (a)(10)(A) through (E) on page four.

How will I know when I can retake a failed division?

Candidates are notified by the test vendor with a new Authorization to Test when eligibility is reset after the six-month waiting period.

May I have work verification forms and/or transcripts submitted from other state boards?

No. You must use California’s forms to receive credit. Transcripts must be certified originals.

How can I receive credit for exam divisions passed in another state?

You must contact the other state’s licensing board and request to have a certification of passed exam scores sent to the Board office. The certification must include the division names, exam dates, and scores.

How is my Evaluation of Record prepared?

Each Employment Verification Form and transcript received is evaluated by the Board staff according to the applicable Table Reference. The Evaluation of Record lists each Employment Verification Form and transcript received and the amount of credit granted according to the Table of Equivalents. The Board staff processes Employment Verification Forms and transcripts as they are received and notifies the candidate with an update letter if any additional information is required to determine eligibility.

How do I know when I am eligible to take the examination?

The Board sends an Eligible Letter to new candidates that indicates eligibility has been established and shows the amount of credit accrued. An Eligibility Notification is sent to reexaminees once the application has been processed.

Questions Frequently Asked by Candidates continued

What is IDP and is it required in California?

IDP is the Intern Development Program which is a structured internship program maintained by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The Board requires new candidates to complete IDP as a requirement for the California Supplemental Examination and licensure. Almost all other states require candidates to complete IDP. In addition, candidates are required to complete the evidence-based structured internship program called the Comprehensive Intern Development Program (CIDP) in conjunction with the IDP.

Why do I have two identification numbers?

The Board assigns an ID# when an Application for Eligibility Evaluation is received. The test vendor then assigns a different ID# when an eligible candidate is issued an Authorization to Test. This number must be used when making an appointment for examination.

How long does it take to get ARE results?

Generally it will take 2-4 weeks to receive results for multiple-choice divisions and 6-8 weeks for graphic divisions.

Can I call the Board to schedule an examination?

No. Candidates must call the local testing facility or the test vendor's toll free number to make an appointment. Information on how to schedule an examination is sent to candidates by the test vendor after eligibility has been established.

How many times can I take one division in a year if I should fail?

Each division can be taken once every six months. This allows a candidate the opportunity to take each division twice in one year, if necessary.

What is required if I let my ARE eligibility lapse?

If more than five years have lapsed since the candidate last took an exam or the candidate file has been purged, the candidate must submit an Application for Eligibility Evaluation, the applicable application review fee, and documentation necessary for Board staff to determine eligibility based on the Board's current Table of Equivalents at the time of reapplication. New and reapplying inactive candidates must complete CIDP/IDP prior to taking the California Supplemental Examination and obtaining licensure.

How does the Rolling Clock affect my scores?

Exams that have been taken and passed after January 1, 2006 are impacted by the Rolling Clock. The candidate must complete all remaining divisions within five years of the first exam passed or the candidate will lose any passing credit and must take the division again.

Do I need to complete CIDP/IDP prior to taking any exams?

No. Once the candidate has established the 5 year minimum to qualify to begin testing, the candidate can take any division.

How will I know when I have completed CIDP/IDP?

Board staff will update the candidate's status as the CIDP forms are submitted. The candidate will need to contact NCARB when their IDP file has been completed and have it sent to the Board.

Do I need to submit CIDP narratives and work samples to the Board with the CIDP form?

No. Only submit the Evidence Verification Form once the narratives and work samples have been reviewed with the supervisor and signed.



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